

MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
25 N BROADWAY
PERU, IN 46970
December 1, 2014

Chairman Francis called the meeting to order. All Commissioners are present.

TREASURER

Treasurer Becky Morris informed the Board that collections came in at 93.7%, which is average for Miami County. The Treasurer mentioned that she a lot of taxpayers come in without their bill which slows down the process and she would like to be able to charge them 10 cents to look it up and 75 cents if they want a copy of it. With just 2 people in the office time is crucial. Other issues she is facing:

- a) She used to be able to pull the payment summary (done daily) in 6 minutes or less and now it takes 15 minutes.
- b) It takes 15 – 25 seconds to post a payment which should happen immediately
- c) It takes a long time to open the system
- d) GIS is not updating
- e) Information on the website is not correct
- f) The toilet in the Treasurer's office still runs continuously which is costing money. Commissioner Hamman said the toilet is probably old and needs replaced. He will look into it.

RECORDER

The Commissioners acknowledged the Recorder but she stated she was sitting in, but she did mention the women's restroom on the second floor has a toilet that was not working properly.

PERU TRIBUNE

Tom Gray, Publisher, came before the Board to introduce himself and discuss issues that he has heard about. The first topic Mr. Gray wanted to discuss is the rates the paper charges for legal ads. They charge according to the rates determined by the State. If Mr. Roberts, County Attorney, has a different rate list, they would be happy to take a look at it. The structure of the paper has changed and they need a notice of three business days to get an ad in. The Auditor stated that one of the issues is that the email for the person who does the legal ads is personalized and when that person leaves or goes on vacation it just sits in that mail box. Mr. Gray stated that the mail boxes are supposed to be checked but maybe they could look at a general email account that is checked every day so as not miss anything.

PROSECUTOR

Prosecutor Bruce Embrey came before the Commissioners to ask for permission for some of his staff to carry over vacation and comp time because with him being short of employees, there is no way they could use it. There was some discussion of paying the time out but the Prosecutor stated he did not have money anywhere to be able to pay it out. Commissioner West made a motion to allow them to carry over the time. Commissioner Hamman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

INSURANCE BIDS

The Commissioners received bids for all insurance other than Health. The bids received were from Webster's Insurance, Saine-Summers Insurance and Consolidated Union.

Michael Bowditch, Account Executive, went over the information that he brought and asked the Board to keep his bid numbers confidential. Commissioner West made a motion to take the bids under advisement with a decision to be made at their next meeting and to keep the information confidential. Commissioner Hamman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

ASSESSOR

Karen LeMaster, 1st Deputy Assessor, recommended accepting the contract presented by TAPCO for Reassessment services. Commissioner Hamman made a motion to accept the recommendation and accept the contract presented by TAPCO. Commissioner West 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

FIRE CHIEF

Chief Betzner came before the Commissioners to discuss the 4th floor situation. Chief Betzner commended the Commissioners and the Auditor's office as well as all the employees who helped on the recent clean-up of the 4th floor. The Chief did a walk through along with Mike Denham to look at the best recommendation for the firewalls that need to be installed on the 4th floor.

Mr. Denham bring a quote in for the Board.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Cris Goble came before the Board to seek their help with dogs running wild around her house. She lives on Union City Road in Denver and has had some issues with these dogs being on her property. She has called animal control but the dogs are still running loose. Mrs. Goble stated that the dogs almost knocked her husband down and they have tried to get in her house. There have been complaints about these dogs by other people who live on or near this road. Commissioner West will check with Animal Control to see what can be done.

EMA

Kris Marks brought in the grant for the partial reimbursement of his salary to be signed. Commissioner West made a motion to sign the grant. Commissioner Hamman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

CLERK

Clerk Tawna Leffel-Sands asked the Commissioners about the last day for the employees being let go. Employees are to use their time and remaining pay will be paid to those employees on December 31, 2014.

Mary Brown, Chief Deputy Auditor, brought a termination letter for those affected by the cuts, to be signed by the Chairman of the Commissioners and the Auditor. Commissioner West made a motion to have Chairman Francis sign the letter. Commissioner Hamman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Commissioner West made a motion to approve paying those people who lost their full time status on December 31, 2014. Commissioner Hamman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

RECORDER SOFTWARE

Commissioner West asked Recorder Brenda Weaver if she has turned her software back on for the other offices and she replied she has not. Commissioner West asked her who the software belonged to and she replied the taxpayers, to which West replied "I rest my case".

Commissioner West then asked Pat Roberts, Commissioners Attorney, what options the Commissioners have in regards to this situation because in his opinion it is a miss use of County property. Mr. Roberts said it was her denial more so than miss use.

Mrs. Weaver stated that her 1st Deputy does the maintaining of the software and since she lost her 1st Deputy she was going to have to learn how to do it so she does not have the time to fix it if someone gets locked out and she has to unlock them. Commissioner Francis reminded her that her Deputy was cut from 35 hours to 28 so she will still be working 4 days a week and that she cut off the feeds to the other offices the day after the Council (in October) cut her 1st Deputy back to 28 hours beginning January 1, 2015 because she was angry about it.

Mr. Roberts will look into the matter and let the Board know what options are available to them. Recorder Weaver told Commissioner West that she resented when he made the statement (back when the computer crash happened) that she could do things by hand. Commissioner West made that statement because she is able to do some things by hand and then input when the system is back up. She is just causing issues.

HEALTH INSURANCE DISCUSSION

Commissioner Francis stated that the representative from R. E .Sutton called him and had a family emergency and would not make it today.

AGA, the current insurance company, came and discussed different options they have available. There are approximately 147 employees on the county insurance and worst case scenario on the current plan is estimated to be 2.5 million (700,000 higher than appropriation). The underwriter only expects 1.565.

Commissioner Francis stated he likes the idea of changing to an HSA (Health Saving Account) because people will be less likely to run to the Dr. for every little thing. Gayle Raber, Insurance Committee Member, stated the downside to that is people might not want to go or not have the money at that moment (\$30 co-pay verses \$138 doctor visit) and let it go until it becomes a serious matter, which could cost a lot more 6 months down the road.

The Insurance Committee feels like if the Commissioners wanted to make this big of a switch, they would have started the process sooner and all the details worked out before now.

Ralph Duckwall, Council President, stated he did not want to hear excuses about not having enough time to do it, the Commissioners needed to make a decision, the right decision or he would cut the entire health insurance appropriation for 2015. The Auditor stated that she took offense to that as not having enough time was not “just an excuse”. It is December 1st and there has been no determination as to what the plan would look like. The Council Budget Committee has discussed making changes since the beginning of the year and has not made any. The Auditor stated that her office is responsible for December Settlement, processing 3 more payrolls and the end of the year claims, a special payroll on December 31st, closing the books, filing an annual financial report with the State (as required by law), filing w-2’s and 1099’s as well as the regular work of the office. The office is down a person and another person who has had a family vacation planned for a long time. To change over 147 employees to a totally new insurance plan that all the details have not been worked out yet is all but impossible.

The question was asked if the clinic would still be available to the employees if the plan switched to an HSA. Yes but there would be a charge to use it.

Commissioner West made a motion to stay with the current insurance but change the amount of the co-pays and the deductible. Commissioner Hamman 2nd the motion and it passed 2-1 (Francis opposed).

Commissioner West would like to monitor the Health Insurance around the end of the 1st quarter.

MINUTES

Commissioner West made a motion to approve the November 17th minutes. Commissioner Hamman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

PAYROLL

Commissioner West made a motion to approve the payroll. Commissioner Hamman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

CLAIMS

Commissioner West made a motion to approve the paying of the claims. Commissioner Hamman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

LONGEVITY

Commissioner West made a motion to approve the longevity pay. Commissioner Hamman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

LPA CONTRACT

Ken Einselen, Highway Engineer, brought the LPA Contract with DLZ for Bridge 159. Commissioner Hamman made a motion to sign the contract. Commissioner West 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

HEALTH BOARD APPOINTMENTS.

Commissioner Hamman made a motion to appoint Mark Waite and June Pollydore to the Health Board. Commissioner West 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

G.U.T.S. BILL

The Commissioners received a bill from G.U.T.S. for the the report they provided on the IT issues facing the County. Commissioner West made a motion to approve the bill for payment. Commissioner Hamman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

MCEDA

Jim Tidd will be making a request to repave Hoosier Boulevard realign the end of that road.

Commissioner West made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hamman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Adjourned

MIAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

_____, **Chairman**
Joshua Francis

_____, **Vice Chairman**
Larry West

_____, **Member**
Jerry Hamman

Attest: _____, **Auditor**
Jane Lilley